

Arkansas Catfish Report



**Arkansas
Field Office**

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**U. S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**

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This report contains the results from the *Catfish Growers Survey* conducted during the first half of January, 2007. All known active Arkansas catfish producers were contacted and provided January 1 inventory and acreage data, and sales data for the previous year. These estimates are also posted on our home page at the Internet address above, and a more detailed national report is available at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and/or interview for the survey.

Foodsize Catfish Inventory Down 10 Percent

Arkansas catfish producers had 53.3 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2007, down 10 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize totaled 1.6 million down 8 percent; medium foodsize decreased 22 percent to 14.4 million, while small foodsize, at 37.3 million, was down 4 percent from January 1, 2006. Arkansas catfish growers had sales of \$79.6 million during 2006, up 3 percent from 2005. As of January 1, 2007, the water surface acres being used for catfish production totaled 30,400 acres, down 7 percent from a year earlier. The number of catfish operations increased from 132 on January 1, 2006, to 137 on January 1, 2007.

Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, January 1, 2006-2007

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	% Change from `06	2006	2007	% Change from `06	2006	2007
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	110	120	+ 9	530	612	+ 15	4.8	5.1
All Foodsize	59,130	53,300	- 10	79,300	69,610	- 12	-	-
Large	1,730	1,600	- 8	6,000	5,410	- 10	3.5	3.4
Medium	18,400	14,400	- 22	35,300	28,800	- 18	1.9	2.0
Small	39,000	37,300	- 4	38,000	35,400	- 7	1.0	0.9
							Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
All Stockers	100,600	75,800	- 25	20,100	15,000	- 25	-	-
Large	47,400	31,200	- 34	15,100	10,800	- 28	319	346
Small	53,200	44,600	- 16	5,000	4,200	- 16	94.0	94.2
Fingerlings	184,000	156,000	- 15	5,200	5,200	-	28.3	33.3

U. S. Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, January 1, 2006-2007¹

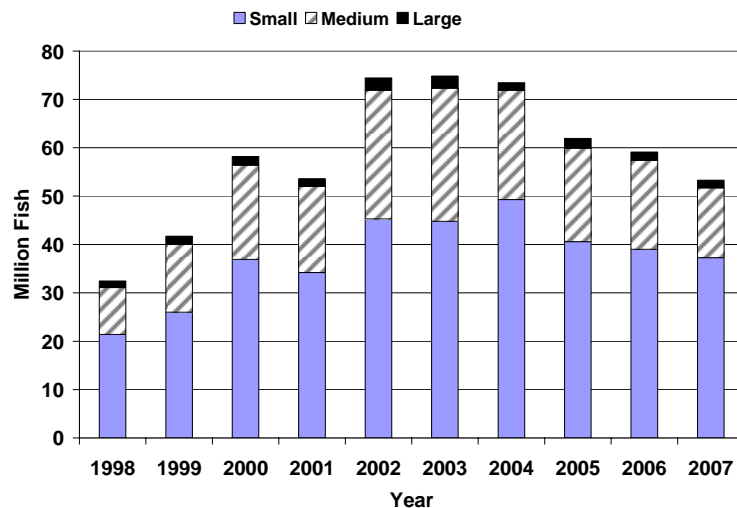
Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	% Change from `06	2006	2007	% Change from `06	2006	2007
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish	
Broodfish	1,106	897	- 19	5,315	4,587	- 14	4.8	5.1
All Foodsize	327,680	311,205	- 5	439,925	409,790	- 7	-	-
Large	10,790	8,350	- 23	36,920	27,700	- 25	3.4	3.3
Medium	102,730	97,820	- 5	191,630	180,620	- 6	1.9	1.8
Small	214,160	205,035	- 4	211,375	201,470	- 5	1.0	1.0
							Pounds per 1,000 Fish	
All Stockers	622,805	572,200	- 8	136,192	141,373	+ 4	-	-
Large	268,595	279,185	+ 4	104,133	111,395	+ 7	388	399
Small	354,210	293,015	- 17	32,059	29,978	- 6	90.5	102.3
Fingerlings	1,039,415	959,060	- 8	34,646	29,733	-14	33.3	31.0

¹11 State total comprised of: AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, MO, NC, and TX.

Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish or over 6" in length.
- Fingerlings: 2 to 60 lbs. per 1,000 fish or 2" to 6" in length.

Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, January 1, 1998-2007



Arkansas Catfish Sales by Size Category, 2005-2006

Size Category	Number		Live Weight Sold				Average Price per Pound		Total Sales	
			Average Weight		Total					
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Fish		Pounds per Fish		1,000 Pounds		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Foodsize	64,000	56,500	1.6	1.8	104,000	99,200	0.71	0.76	73,840	75,392
Fingerlings	121,000	127,000	Pounds per 1,000 Fish		1,260	1,350	1.87	2.10	2,356	2,835
Total	185,000*	183,500*	-	-	105,260*	100,550*	-	-	77,556**	79,586**

*Broodfish and stockers not included. **Total sales include broodfish and stockers.

Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, January 1, 2006-2007

Item	Unit	Arkansas			United States ¹		
		2006	2007	% Change from '06	2006	2007	% Change from '06
Catfish Operations, Jan. 1	Number	132	137	+ 4	1,035	1,023	- 1
Water Surface Used for Catfish Production ²	Acres	32,600	30,400	- 7	170,370	162,700	- 5
For Food size	Acres	27,500	25,500	- 7	138,820	132,675	- 4
For Fingerlings	Acres	4,300	4,200	- 2	22,750	23,110	+ 2
For Broodfish	Acres	570	560	- 2	4,780	3,880	- 19

¹11 State total comprised of: AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, MO, NC, and TX.

²During January 1 to June 30. Current year data for intended utilization.